

The only thing we can be relatively certain about these days is that the sun will rise and set and that the rhythm of the seasons and natural world *will continue*.



ADKINS ARBORETUM

July to December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h2>July 2020</h2>			<p>Butterbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>) blooms in the wetland and provides wonderful flowers for pollinators.</p>			
<p>Thunder Moon full moon</p>	<p>Sweetbay magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>) blooms along Blockston Branch and in the wetland. Flowers are primarily pollinated by beetles.</p>	<p>Great blue skimmer dragonflies (<i>Libellula vibrans</i>) hover over the wetland. Dragonflies eat mosquitoes and other insects.</p>				
<p>Monarch butterflies (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) seek nectar for energy and milkweed plants to lay their eggs.</p>	<p>JUPITER is visible all night long with binoculars or a medium telescope. You should be able to see the largest four of Jupiter's 79 moons.</p>	<p>Duckweed (<i>Lemna</i> sp.), one of the smallest flowering plants in the world, grows in the wetland.</p>				
<p>Starry campion (<i>Silene stellata</i>) flowers near the overlook on Tuckahoe Creekside Trail. It is pollinated mainly by moths.</p>	<p>MERCURY will be visible in the eastern sky just before sunrise.</p>	<p>Red-spotted purple butterfly (<i>Limenitis arthemis</i>) caterpillars eat black cherry and willow leaves; they camouflage by looking like bird droppings. Look for them on the Wild Thicket Walk.</p>				
<p>Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower</p>	<p>Green herons (<i>Butorides virescens</i>) fish in the wetland. They have been known to drop worms, feathers, or twigs onto the water to lure fish.</p>					

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<h2>August 2020</h2>			<p>Swamp rose mallow (<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>) blooms in the wetland.</p>			
<p>Trumpet creeper (<i>Campsis radicans</i>) blooms along the meadow edges, providing nectar for hummingbirds.</p>	<p>Ruby-throated hummingbirds (<i>Archilochus colubris</i>) visit trumpet creeper flowers for their nectar. Their wings beat 53 times per second.</p>					
<p>Devil's walking stick (<i>Aralia spinosa</i>) flowers attract a variety of pollinators. Look for the rings of thorns around the narrow stems of this colony-forming shrub.</p>	<p>Perseids Meteor Showers peak on August 11 and 12; Venus is visible in the eastern sky just before sunrise on August 13.</p>	<p>Annual cicadas fill the air with loud sonorous buzzing. The most common species is the dog day cicada (<i>Neotibicen canicularis</i>).</p>				
<p>Paw paw (<i>Asimina triloba</i>) fruits are developing. Look for paw paws along the Blockston Branch and Creekside paths.</p>	<p>White-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>) love to eat paw paw fruit, but they won't eat the tree's nasty-smelling leaves.</p>					
<p>Passionflower (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>) blooms in Emily's Play Garden. The pulp inside the pale green fruits is tart but edible. Passion flower is a host plant for the variegated fritillary butterfly (<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>).</p>	<p>Jupiter and Saturn can be seen close to the moon</p>					

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<h2>September 2020</h2>			<p>Jewelweed (<i>Impatiens capensis</i>) blooms in the wetland and along the lower Blockston Branch loop. Jewelweed seed pods explode to disperse seeds!</p>			
<p>Blue mistflower (<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>) blooms in the parking lot gardens.</p>	<p>Crab spiders (Family <i>Thomisidae</i>) like to hang out in the blue mistflower, as the flower structure provides an excellent hunting ground.</p>	<p>NEPTUNE will be fully illuminated by the sun, making it visible through a telescope.</p>				
<p>Keep an eye out for a monarch caterpillar chrysalis. The light green chrysalis with gold dots hangs from silken threads, usually under leaves.</p>	<p>Blue wood aster (<i>Aster cordifolius</i>) and white wood aster (<i>Aster divaricatus</i>) are in bloom.</p>	<p>Jack-in-the-pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>) fruits turn bright red to attract animal dispersers. Look for these along Blockston Branch.</p>	<p>Eastern box turtles (<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>) eat many fruits, including Jack-in-the-pulpit.</p>	<p>New Moon Mars will be brightest on October 13.</p>		
<p>Swamp sunflower (<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>) blooms in the parking lot and is a host plant for the painted lady butterfly (<i>Vanessa cardui</i>).</p>	<p>Look for snapping turtles (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>) just under the surface of the water in the wetland. They are the largest freshwater turtle in Maryland.</p>					
<p>Grass-leaved goldenrod (<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>) flowers in Nancy's Meadow, providing late nectar for pollinators. Look for goldenrod galls formed by tiny flies, moths, and midges.</p>						

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<h2>October 2020</h2>			<p>Hunters Moon full moon</p>	<p>Mercury is visible low in the western sky just after sunset on October 1.</p>		
<p>Aromatic aster (<i>Aster oblongifolius</i> 'October Skies') blooms in the entrance garden.</p>	<p>Draconids Meteor Shower best viewing is in the early evening of October 7.</p>	<p>Rabbits (<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>) tend to avoid heavily scented plants, preferring grasses instead. They are frequently spotted in the grassy areas around the South Meadow.</p>				
<p>Jack-in-the-pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>) fruits turn bright red to attract animal dispersers. Look for these along Blockston Branch.</p>	<p>Rough green snakes (<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>) tend to be out and about. Green snakes mostly dine on insects like grasshoppers and may be found climbing shrubs.</p>	<p>Hearts-a-bursting (<i>Euonymus americanus</i>) fruits open to reveal orange seeds that tempt migrating birds. Find these along the Upland Path.</p>	<p>Bald cypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>) needles turn red-gold along the edge of the Arboretum's wetland.</p>	<p>Listen for barred owls (<i>Strix varia</i>) singing "WHO COOKS FOR YOU? WHO COOKS FOR YOU-ALL?"</p>		

Photos by Kellen McCluskey and Kathy Thornton

Drawings by Barbara Bryan and Diane DuBois Mullaly

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<h2>November 2020</h2>			<p>Common milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) goes to seed in the Visitor's Center meadow. The seeds were used to stuff life vests during WWII. The bright red-orange of milkweed bugs (<i>Oncopeltus fasciatus</i>) warns would-be predators that they are poisonous, having accumulated toxins from the milkweed plant's sap.</p>			
<p>American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>) trees along the Upland and Creekside paths produce triangular nuts held in a little husk. These provide food for many animals.</p>	<p>Gray squirrels (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>) busily gather acorns, hickory nuts, and beech nuts for winter.</p>	<p>Northern Taurids Meteor Shower</p>				
<p>New Moon Leonids Meteor Shower peaks November 16 and 17.</p>	<p>The fluffy seeds of splitbeard bluestem grass (<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>) shine in the sun along the edge of Nancy's Meadow.</p>	<p>You may never see a meadow vole (<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>), but you can look for their runways through Nancy's Meadow. They tunnel just under the surface of the ground.</p>				
<p>Persimmon (<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>) fruit sweetens after frost. Look next to the Visitor's Center and at the intersection of Upland Walk and South Meadow Loop.</p>	<p>Wild turkeys (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>) eat persimmons in the fall, as well as acorns, insects, seeds, and berries.</p>					
<p>Red cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>) has separate male and female trees. The females have waxy blue fruits.</p>						

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<h2>December 2020</h2>			<p>Mockingbirds (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>) are just one species that enjoy juniper berries. These birds mimic the calls of other birds.</p>	<p>Penumbral lunar eclipse</p>		
<p>Partridge berry (<i>Mitchella repens</i>) little red fruits are eaten by bobwhite quail, turkeys, skunks, and white-footed mice. Look for this evergreen groundcover along the South Tuckahoe Valley trail.</p>	<p>Ant lion (<i>Myrmeleon</i> sp.) pits can be seen in the sandy soils of the path near the partridge berry plants.</p>					
<p>The pointy balls of sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>) release their small winged seeds on cold winter days. The resin was used to flavor tobacco.</p>	<p>Cardinals (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>) are often spotted along the wood's edge. The males are bright red, and the females are a warm red-brown color.</p>					
<p>Winter Solstice Jupiter and Saturn will appear close to each other on this night, called a great conjunction. May appear as a double planet.</p>	<p>Red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>) live in the Arboretum's meadows. Look for them if you are on the trails at dusk or dawn.</p>	<p>American holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>) provides both shelter and food for birds in winter.</p>				
<p>Winter sun brings out the muscular physique of ironwood (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>), also called musclewood. Look for this small tree with smooth gray bark along the river birch alley.</p>	<p>Look for Carolina chickadees (<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>) and dark-eyed juncos (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>) in brushy areas around the South Meadow.</p>					

TAKE IT WITH YOU

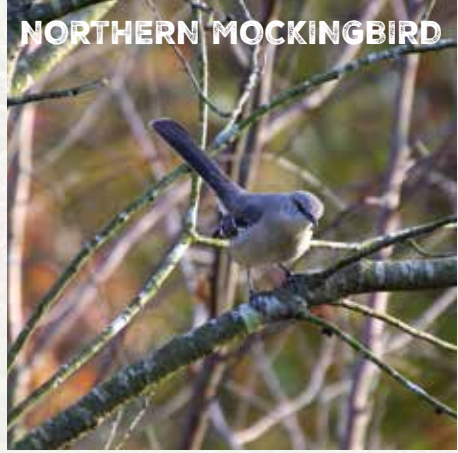
EACH THURSDAY, we'll post a new family-friendly activity to enjoy on your next Arboretum visit.

Look for these in the "Take It With You" section of our weekly eblast, on the Visitor's Center back door, and on our website.

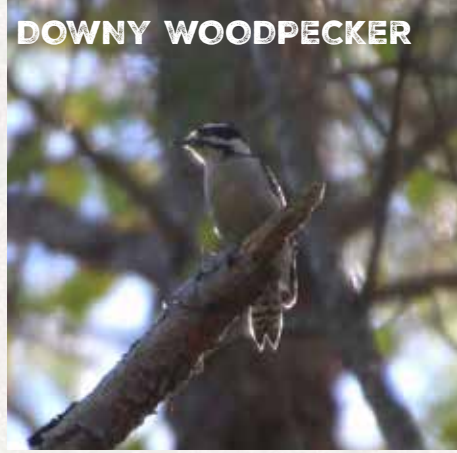
Print out the PDF or snap a photo to bring with you on your walk!



Birds of the Arboretum



If you've been hearing an endless string of 10 or 15 different birds singing outside your house, you may have a **Northern Mockingbird** in your yard. This mimic repeats a song three or more times and then moves on to another.



The active little **Downy Woodpecker** is an acrobatic forager. Our smallest woodpecker is a familiar sight in parks and woodlots, where it joins flocks of chickadees and nuthatches, barely outsize them.



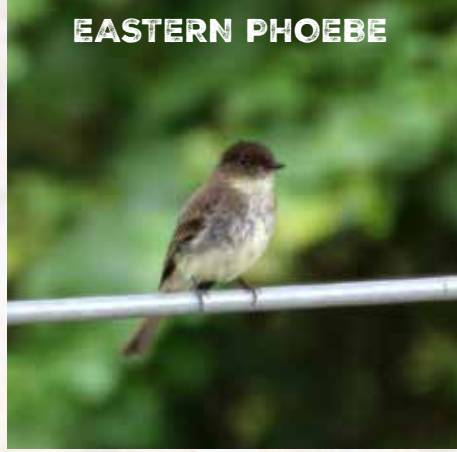
The quintessential early bird, **American Robins** are common sights on lawns across North America, where you often see them tugging earthworms out of the ground.



The **American Goldfinch** is the only finch that molts its body feathers twice a year, once in late winter and again in late summer. Each spring, the brightening yellow of male goldfinches is one welcome sign of approaching warm months.



John James Audubon himself named this bird while he was in South Carolina. The curious, intelligent **Carolina Chickadee** looks very much like its cousin the Black-capped Chickadee.



The **Eastern Phoebe's** raspy "phoebe" call is a frequent sound around yards and farms in spring and summer. These birds typically place their mud-and-grass nests in protected nooks on bridges, barns, and houses, which adds to the species' familiarity to humans.



The **Northern Cardinal** is a perfect combination of familiarity, conspicuousness, and style. Even the brown females sport a sharp crest and warm red accents. Cardinals don't migrate and don't molt into dull plumage, so they're still breathtaking in winter's snowy backyards.



Singing its distinctive "peter peter peter," the **Tufted Titmouse** nests in tree holes (and nest boxes) but can't excavate its own nest cavities. This species depends on dead wood for its home—one reason it's important to allow dead trees to remain in forests rather than cutting them down.

Adkins Arboretum's Native Plant Sale is back for fall!

Orders will be accepted online July 23 through August 27.

Prepare for fall in the garden! Fall is the best time to plant. Select from our extensive offerings of landscape-ready native trees, shrubs, perennials, ferns, vines, and grasses. Discounts for members.

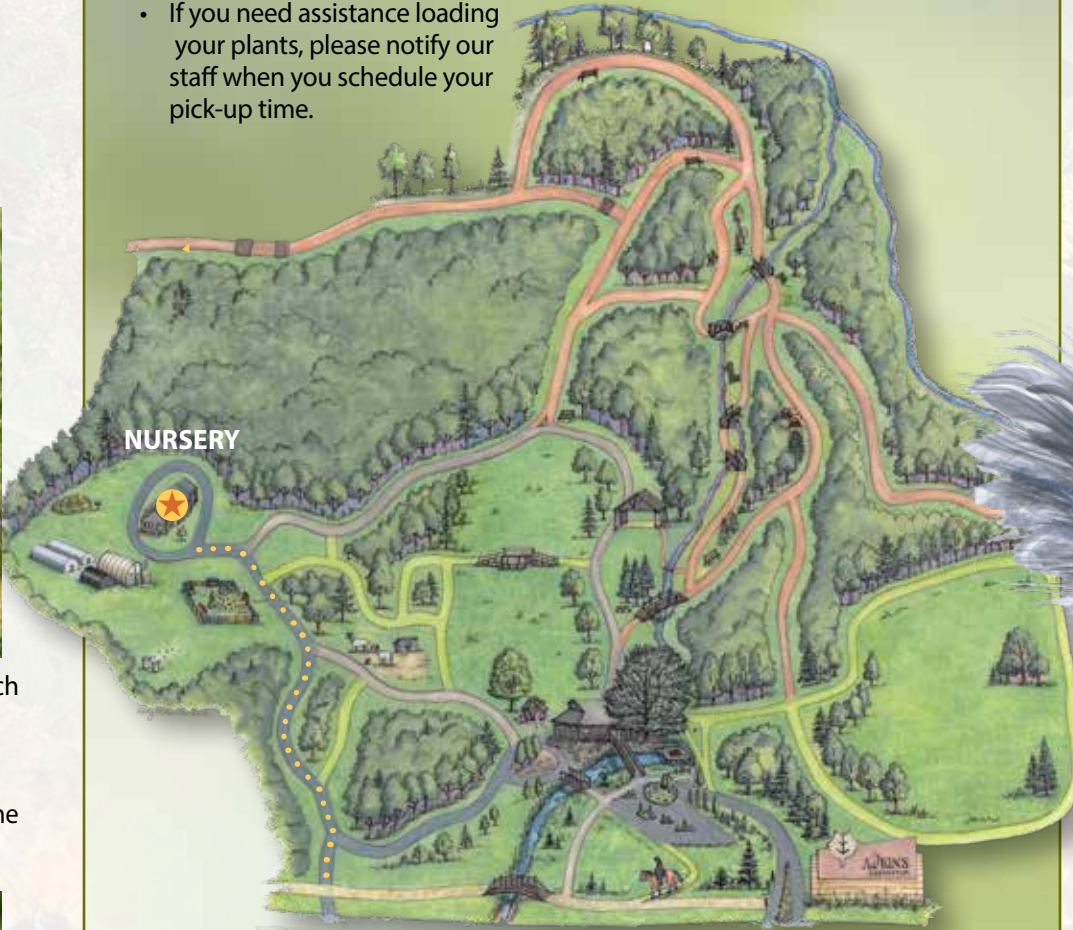
Here's how it works:

To ensure everyone's safety, sales will be conducted online only. There is no on-site shopping, and we do not ship plants. If you are a member and wish to receive your discount on plants, you must enter **PLANT10** or **PLANT20** (depending on level of membership) in the promo code box at checkout. **We cannot apply your discount after you have placed your order.**

1. Visit the Arboretum website and click on the Fall Plant Sale link. Once you're ready, click on the cart and then enter your promo code and payment information. Submit your order.
2. Our staff will always contact you with an email to give you an order number and schedule a pick-up appointment. If we don't receive confirmation from you, we will follow up with a phone call. **Your pick-up time must be confirmed. Do not show up to the nursery before having spoken with a staff member.** Your order will not be pulled ahead of schedule.
3. Arrive to the service gate at your scheduled time with your order number displayed on a piece of 8.5 x 11" paper. Our staff will direct you to the appropriate parking space and your plants, identified by order number, at the nursery.
4. Load up your plants and exit via the service gate.

Please note:

- Direct questions and concerns to nativeplants@adkinsarboretum.org.
- If we are unable to provide a plant that you ordered, we will notify you through email and provide the appropriate refund.
- If you need assistance loading your plants, please notify our staff when you schedule your pick-up time.



Plant Highlights



ASIMINA TRILOBA: If you find yourself in floodplain forest, keep an eye out for tropical-looking paw paws. When mature, these understory trees produce the largest native fruit in fall. Paw paw fruit tastes like a cross between a mango, a banana, and a pineapple. Paw paw is also the host plant for zebra swallowtail butterfly larvae. These trees are perfect for an understory edge with part shade and some sun.



ARONIA MELANOCARPA: Black chokeberry checks all the boxes. This native shrub reaches 4 to 5 feet tall and wide. It is an excellent pollinator plant, offering beautiful flowers in late April and May. Come summertime, it bears edible fruit that is high in antioxidants. In fall, the foliage turns a vibrant orange.



RHUS 'GRO LOW': This shrub is an excellent ground cover. While its flowers aren't showy, pollinators still enjoy them. This aromatic sumac is not desirable to deer and will send out sprawling branches that will help cover your soil. It's a perfect choice for a dry, sunny area.



SOLIDAGO SPP.: Fall is a great time for asters! Do you know that goldenrods are a type of aster? There are many native goldenrod species, all of which serve as an excellent late-season nectar source for pollinators. Look for these species this fall: *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks' (for a dramatic arching bloom), *Solidago sempervirens* (for sandy, sunny areas), *Solidago odora* (anise-scented leaves can be used as tea), *Solidago nemoralis* (a shorter species with bold blooms), and *Euthamia graminifolia* (delicate leaves with bouquets of gold on top).

Creature Happenings

Butterflies and moths abound in summer months. The **caterpillars of black-and-white-striped zebra swallowtails** feed on paw paw leaves, while those of **monarchs** munch on milkweed. Seemingly fragile **lepidoptera** have a variety of ways to protect themselves from predators, including eyespots, camouflage, and mimicry. The elongated hindwings of lime green **luna moths** may even be an adaptation to confuse echolocating bats.



Nighttime finds many Arboretum animals on the prowl. **River otters** and **raccoons** hunt for crayfish in Tuckahoe Creek, and **opossum** mothers search for food with babies on their backs. One opossum can eat 4,000 ticks in a week! **Foxes**—both red and gray—are most active in the evening and early morning. Their tails tell them apart: red foxes have white-tipped tails, while those of gray foxes are tipped in black. Deep in the woods, the "Who cooks for you?" call of a **barred owl** is answered from a neighboring tree.



The wetland teems with life well into September. **Snapping turtles**, aggressive on land, disappear in a swirl of bubbles underwater. **Painted turtles**, **red-eared sliders**, and **northern water snakes** sun themselves among the cattails. Many people confuse these with cottonmouths, but there are no venomous water snakes on the Eastern Shore. Snakes feed on frogs in the wetland. Large **bullfrogs** sing "baroom, baroom" to attract a mate; smaller **green frogs** call out with a banjo-like "plink, plink." Dragonfly young hatch into this watery world—nymphs will spend several weeks in the water before growing wings and taking flight.



Dragonflies are hardly the only winged creatures in the wetland. **Green herons** make a harsh "skew" when they take flight, while the **great blue heron** makes a loud groaning call. **Red-winged blackbirds** build pendulous nests among the reeds. On the meadow's edge, plump brown-and-white **phoebes** sing their name. Phoebes will often build nests beneath eaves or ledges; male **eastern bluebirds** build theirs in cavities to attract a mate. The Arboretum's 26 bluebird boxes provide shelter for many nestlings.

With the approach of winter, waterfowl on their journey south stop in the wetland to rest and refuel. Cold-blooded creatures prepare for hibernation, as do **skunks**, **bats**, and **groundhogs**. Other animals remain active. **Voles** tunnel beneath the paths in Nancy's Meadow, where disturbed tunnels are a sign of hungry foxes. **Beavers** stockpile sticks beside their lodge for winter eating and store fat in their tails. The summer coats of **white-tailed deer** make way for longer guard hairs and a thicker undercoat. **Squirrels** store acorns and other nuts in forest caches. They'll spend much of the winter in leafy nests high in the forest canopy, called dreys. Fall is golden and fleeting, and the animals know all too well that "nothing gold can stay."



NATURE SKETCHERS

Fine artist and Maryland Master Naturalist **DIANE DUBOIS MULLALLY** invites you to take a self-guided nature walk to sketch what's in bloom, budding, or of interest to you along the paths. Bring your own medium—such as graphite, ink, or watercolor, which are all easily portable—for a quick sketch. Share your sketches with us on Facebook or Instagram by including the hashtags **#adkinsarboretum** and **#naturesketchers**.



Partnership with Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The 400-plus acres that Adkins Arboretum programs and manages is located within the 4,000-plus acres of Tuckahoe State Park. The Arboretum operates under a 50-year lease with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Although the Arboretum is fully responsible for its operations as a nonprofit organization, we benefit greatly from being on State land and from our close relationship with Tuckahoe State Park. We are grateful for the support from Tuckahoe State Park managers and rangers who check in on the property when we are not on site, close our entrance gates at dusk, provide security and safety backup, untangle a goat on occasion, and partner on programming.

Art Gallery Exhibits and Outdoor Sculptural Invitational

We look forward to resuming art exhibits in 2021 with Julia Sutliff, Sheryl Southwick, Rob Brownlee-Tomasso, Liz Donadio, and John Moran. We will also resume our Juried Show, now with a January 2021 submission date, and the Outdoor Sculpture Invitational. Check our website for virtual exhibits throughout 2020.



Rob Brownlee-Tomasso, "Adkins Arboretum," acrylic, earth, and branch, 72" x 50"



Liz Donadio, "Untitled," cyanotype and digital print, 11" x 14"



John Moran, "Blue Abstract," oil on canvas, 20" x 16"



Sheryl Southwick, "Old Guard," paper collage, 12" x 12"

Members keep us growing. **JOIN TODAY!**

There's never been a better time to become a member of Adkins Arboretum!

Amid closures and safer-at-home orders, the Arboretum is committed to keeping its paths open for the many dog walkers, bikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts who seek solace in open space and the health benefits of spending time outside.

These benefits are numerous. Studies show that time in nature reduces stress, improves mood, lowers blood pressure, improves sleep, accelerates recovery from illness, and boosts the immune system. Forests play a particularly important role in healthy immune systems—when we breathe in fresh air, we breathe in the same chemicals that plants release as protection against insects. These chemicals, in turn, help us fight disease.

In joining the Arboretum, members support their health and the health of the greater community. Members also enjoy free admission throughout the year and discounts on native plant and other purchases.



ADKINS ARBORETUM
12610 Eveland Road
Ridgely, MD 21160

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Mail Movers
July to December 2020

The only thing we can be relatively certain about these days is that the sun will rise and set and that the rhythm of the seasons and natural world will continue.

With that in mind, our calendar focuses on the natural events that we anticipate experiencing at the Arboretum and near our homes. We hope you ENJOY, EXPLORE, LEARN, and FIND SOLACE and JOY in nature.

The calendar does not reflect facilitated programming. It is our overarching strategy to make the right decision at the right time. Please check our website for regular updates and to sign up for our Thursday-morning electronic newsletter. Our e-news will keep you up to date on all that is happening at the Arboretum, including new and innovative ways to share nature's wonders with you.

We look forward to welcoming you in person in the near future.